

Message Text

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UNCLAS LUSAKA 1531

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E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJECT: ZAMBIAN EDITORIAL COMMENT

LOCAL PRESS TODAY COMMENTS ON ZAMBIA-WEST RELATIONS IN THE
WAKE OF PRESIDENT KAUNDA'S CURRENT TOUR OF WEST
EUROPEAN COUNTRIES; AND ON THE INVASION OF MOZAMBIQUE BY
RHODESIAN SECURITY FORCES EARLY THIS WEEK.

THE GOVERNMENT OWNED ZAMBIA DAIL MAIL, WHICH USUALLY REFLECTS
GOVERNMENT THINKING, DESCRIBES THE INVASION AS "A SENSELESS
ACT OF MONSTROSITY THAT MUST BE CONDEMNED BY ALL THE
CIVILIZED WHO BELIEVE IN CIVILIZED STANDARD."
THE INVASION IS SENSELESS, SAYS THE MAIL, IN THAT IT
HAS NO MILITARY VALUE; FOOLISH IN THAT THE VICTIMS ARE
UNARMED MEN AND WOMEN, WHO THE PAPER ADDS, HAPPEN TO BE
HELPLESS REFUGEES.

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THE MAIL TERMS THE RHODESIAN RAID "AN ACT OF BEASTLY
MURDER ON THE PART OF SMITH WITH THE CONNIVANCE OF MR.
JOHN VORSTER OF SOUTH AFRICA FOR THE EXPRESS
PURPOSE OF GAINING OF VANTAGE AT THE FUTURE TALKS."

THE PAPER ALSO CONTENDS THAT THE RAID BY RHODESIAN
FORCES IS "A SILLY THING" THAT "DRIVES A WEDGE BETWEEN

THE AMERICANS NOW PLAYING ACTIVE ROLE IN THE RHODESIAN PROBLEM, AND THE WHITES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA WHO HAVE TO LOOK TO THE WEST IF THEY ARE TO ESCAPE "THE FINAL ONSLAUGHT."

THE MAIL VES THAT MR. SMITH HAS CARRIED OUT THE RAID TO IMPRESS UPON "THE ILL-FATED TEAM OF NEGOTIATORS FROM BRITAIN AND AMERICA" THAT RHODESIA IS CAPABLE OF DEALING WITH "THE BLACK TIDE OF NATIONALISM."

BUT THE PAPER ASKS: "IS SMITH SO FOOLISH AS TO BE OBLIVIOUS OF THE FACT THAT NOW THAT THE AMERICANS HAVE WASHED THEIR HANDS OUT OF ANY TRAGIC SITUATION IN WHICH WHITES MAY FIND THEMSELVES IN RHODESIA RESULTING FROM THEIR FOOLISH ACTIONS?"

THE PAPER CHARGES THAT THE INVASION INTO MOZAMBIQUE WAS FINANCED BY SOUTH AFRICANS AND CARRIED OUT WITH SOUTH AFRICAN APPROVAL, WITH WEAPONS FROM SOUTH AFRICA AND "IT IS MOST LIKELY THAT SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS COULD HAVE BEEN INVOLVED."

THE NEWSPAPER OBSERVES THAT UNLIKE SOME MEN AGE WHO MATURE IN WISDOM PRIME MINISTER VORSTER "HAS LOST ALL VISION OF TAKING HIS COUNTRY OUT OF THE 19TH CENTURY LAGGER MENTALITY INTO THE MID-20TH CENTURY."

THE MAIL CONCLUDES THAT IF THE SOUTH AFRICAN LEADER HAS THE LOVE OF HIS PEOPLE AT HEART, HE MUST START LOOKING UNCLASSIFIED

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AT SMITH (SIC) THE CURSED PIECE OF EARTH THAT DRAGS WITH IT TO DESTRUCTION ALL WHO APPEAR TO BE FOOLISH ENOUGH TO MAKE HIM A FRIEND.

"WHEN THE DAY OF RECKONING COMES, IT WILL NOT BE THE RHODESIANS BUT THE WHITE SOUTH AFRICANS WHO WILL HAVE TO PAY HEAVILY FOR THEIR SINS AND FOOLISH INVOLVEMENT IN RHODESIAN AFFAIRS."

THE PARTY-OWNED TIMES OF ZAMBIA, TODAY CENTERS ITS OPINION COMMENTS ON RELATION BETWEEN ZAMBIA AND THE WEST, IN THE LIGHT OF THE CURRENT VISIT BY PRESIDENT KAUNDA TO SEVERAL WEST EUROPEAN NATIONS.

THE PAPER COMMENTS THAT THE "WEST CONTINUES TO TREAT AFRICAN LEADERS AS IF THEY WERE STILL WET BEHIND THE EARS GREENHORNS IN THE CUT-AND-THRUST OF INTERNATIONAL POLICIES."

CITING THE WEST'S REACTION WHEN THE CHINESE FIRST ARRIVED
IN ZAMBIA TO WORK ON THE ZAMTAN RAILWAY AND THE RECENT
VISIT TO ZAMBIA BY SOVIET PRESIDENT NIKOLAI PODGONY, THE
TIMES NOTES: "WE HAVE HAD THE CHINESE AND RUSSIANS
SINCE INDEPENDENCE AND STILL ZAMBIA REMAINS AS NON-ALIGNED
AS IT WAS ON OCTOBER 24, 1964.

"IF ANYTHING, IN FACT, THERE ARE AMONG OUR LEADERS, SOME WHO
APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN CONVINCED THAT THE WEST IS ALL-AROUND
A BETTER PROPOSITION THAN THE EAST, WHICH MAY OR MAY NOT
BE WISE CONCLUSION TO ARRIVE AT THIS STAGE."

THE NEWSPAPER EMPHASIZES THAT ZAMBIA'S NON-ALIGNMENT,
HOWEVER, ON VISIBLE DISPLAY AS PRESIDENT KAUND TOURS THE
WEST, AND ADDS: "THIS IS A COUNTRY TOTALLY UNPREPARED TO BE
A PAWN IN AN IDEOLOGICAL CONFLICT BETWEEN EAST AND WEST.
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